

Frank Stephens Field Notes, 1901

March 22 - April 9, 1901

SAN DIEGO NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM

Friday, March 22nd 1901
Cloudy and misty
morning. Got started from Witch
Creek for the Desert at 1 P.M.,
At Spencer Valley I ran into
the fog (cloud). Sprinkled and
mistled a little. Didn't stop
in Julian, as it was windy,
misty and cold. At the head
of the cañon, ^{step back} on the old road
I ran out of the fog. Camped
at dusk about two miles above
Banner. Apparently the clouds
did not reach much beyond
Banner at sunset. At nine
some stars were shining.
At the foot of the grade out
of Santa Feabel Valley I
shot four band-tailed
pigeons out of a flock. Half
a mile further a mountain
quail crossed the road,
and I saw a pair a mile
above camp.

Saturday 23rd

Found but people at
Bummer. None of the
misses are running
except two men each in
the Hubbard and Ruddy
Relief. Drove down
to Griss Redmans in the
afternoon. Windy but
otherwise fine day

24 March

Mr. Bundgel came about
9-30. We drove to Blair
Valley by 3 P.M. ~~at~~ the
alfileria was fair and there
was a little water in a
pool near the old well we
camped and I walked
over to the cañon (S.F. Pass)
but found no butterflies.
Set out a few traps, saw
two Scotts Orioles
except Pyromys.

25 March

Had three Peromyscus
in traps this morning.
Drove to Masons and in
the P.M. rode up to old
Zimicuals, later drove
down to Fall City. Plants
are backward. Saw two
Geococcyx Thusimus near
Masons.

26 Mch

Bought 8 bats (6 *Otters*
and 2 *Myotis*) in the
old house last night. The
Otters do not seem to
come in until after they
have fed. Drove to
Barry's Creek, found
but one man there a
cartaker for the San
Diego & Desert Oil Co.
Shot three cinnamon
Teal in the morning.

27 Mch

Got off at 7-20. Saw
two Teal in the creek.
I can see nothing to
indicate oil here. If
there is any it is about
the mouth of the cañon
where the fossils are.
Yesterday was windy, but it
died out in the night. Fine
calm day until about

4 P. M., when it got up
again from the west and
is now blowing a gale.
Pyromelis (cardua?) have
been abundant all the way
from Pomeroy, and are
still seen here on the
Desert, though not quite
so plentiful. Other butterflies
are rare. Drove to the
little lake (Diamond?)
near the Big Laguna by
5 P. M. & camped. Some
one has started a ranch
here, but is not at home.
He has put a dam across
the channel below the
lake.

28 March,

The wind lulled in the night, but rose in the morning. So we had a dusty drive to Cameron Lake, which we reached about 11 A. M. The lake is nearly dry, there being water only in the lower end. The Big Laguna had plenty of water in it. There is a camp here of three or four Cal. D. Co. ^{gangs of surveyors} men, and their families. They have ¹ ~~some~~ ^{board} a well ~~200~~ or 300 yards east of the north end of ~~the~~ lake, and have pretty good water, but it appears quite warm. They have a small store. Everything is in tents. As we passed Indian Well we stopped, and I looked in the old honor, no bats in sight. Half an hour later I saw several, catching some. They flew pretty well in daylight. Wonder if they pass the day in mistletoe.

29 March.

Drove over to the ditch-
camp, which is on the
boundary line about six
miles east of Cameron Lake.
Then we about 25 min at
work scraping &c. There is
another camp further east,
but as it is across the line
I did not go to it. The
canal is very large, and
the system also comprises a
great many laterals. They
have it as many men or
teams as they want, though
good wages are paid. The
foreman told me that it
would take three years to
complete the work. In
most respects the prospect
for a flourishing colony is
very good. Shot a cottontail
at camp at dusk. It appears to
be Lepus s. auduboni all right.

30 March

Drove out nearly to the foot of Signal Mt. camping 200 yds south of the line and about nine miles from Cameron Lake. In setting traps I saw a deer track at the base of the mountain. The rocks at the base of Signal Mt. are hard red sandstone. Higher they are granite. Slight shower P.M.

31 March,

Had Peromyscus eremicus
Perognathus parvirostris and
Dipodomys deserti & D. m.
sinuatus in traps this morning. Drove back to Cameron Lake in the forenoon and skinned mammals in the afternoon.

1 April

Drove up to Blue Lake and back today. Still waiting for Rockwell, the manager for the Co. A fine day.

2 April

Rather warm, but otherwise fine, Thur, 88 at 3 P.M.
Drove to Imperial by noon (11 m) Two frame houses, 3 cloth, 1 building. They are to start a paper in a few days. I subscribed. Met Mr. Rockwell, and also Mr. Ferguson, the Genl Mgr of the Imperial Co. They put down a well 600 feet and got no water, soil? all the way across Mesquite desert (dry) and made a dry camp.

April 3rd, 3 P.M.

Crossed the Salton (Carter)
River after driving about
three miles. Water there in a
hole, ^{some water} Reached Bothwells camp
about 10-30, 8 miles from
the river channel. Drove
back to the Salton for
lunch and am lying over
two or three hours. We will
strike for Fish Creek now.
The wind is rather high
and the dust prevents my
seeing the mountains, so
I shall have to go partly
by guess, or get out a
compass.

April 5th

Had a dusty drive Weds
afternoon. Could hardly face
the dust, as it hurt my eyes.
New River Channel proved
~~to~~ to have very high and
abrupt banks, but I found
a good crossing after a
half hours search. There
were telephone poles strung
along by New River.

Yesterday morning was clear
and I got my bearings. We
hit Fish Creek at the "oil
well" derrick at 3 or 3-30,
having made the drive across
country without a road in
30 miles. The horses were
glad to get water. The "oil
well" is flowing a small
stream of good water. The
man in charge refused to
tell me how deep it was,
said it had caved in, and
partly filled. It is not

flowing as much water
as it did a fortnight
ago, when they stopped
work, I fail to see any
sign whatever of oil.

This morning I took the
butterfly net and caught
a few little fish in the
stream below the spring and
also found some skulls ~~and~~
among a tiny patch of turtles.

Today we have driven
up to the buttes below

Borgo Spring, coming via
a new road, one fork of which
runs direct to the San Felix
Narrows. We started after
8 A.M. and reached here
after 3 P.M. 20 miles.

This is where Anthony
and I camped several years
ago and I took one of the
new s.s. of *Prognathias* from
a sidewinder's mouth. Today
has been pleasant.

6th April
Shiny night. Had
two pocket rats (simiolus)
and five pocket mice in
my traps this morning.
Two of these were the new
s.s. arvicola, two pusicillatus
and one spinatus.

Drove up to the "Tank"
for lunch; found but half
a bucket of water in the
hole, so drove on up to the
Ironwood Well. Santana
has been developing water
here, and has put in
good troughs, having
bought this 40, he has
his cattle here now.
Windy all day.

7 April

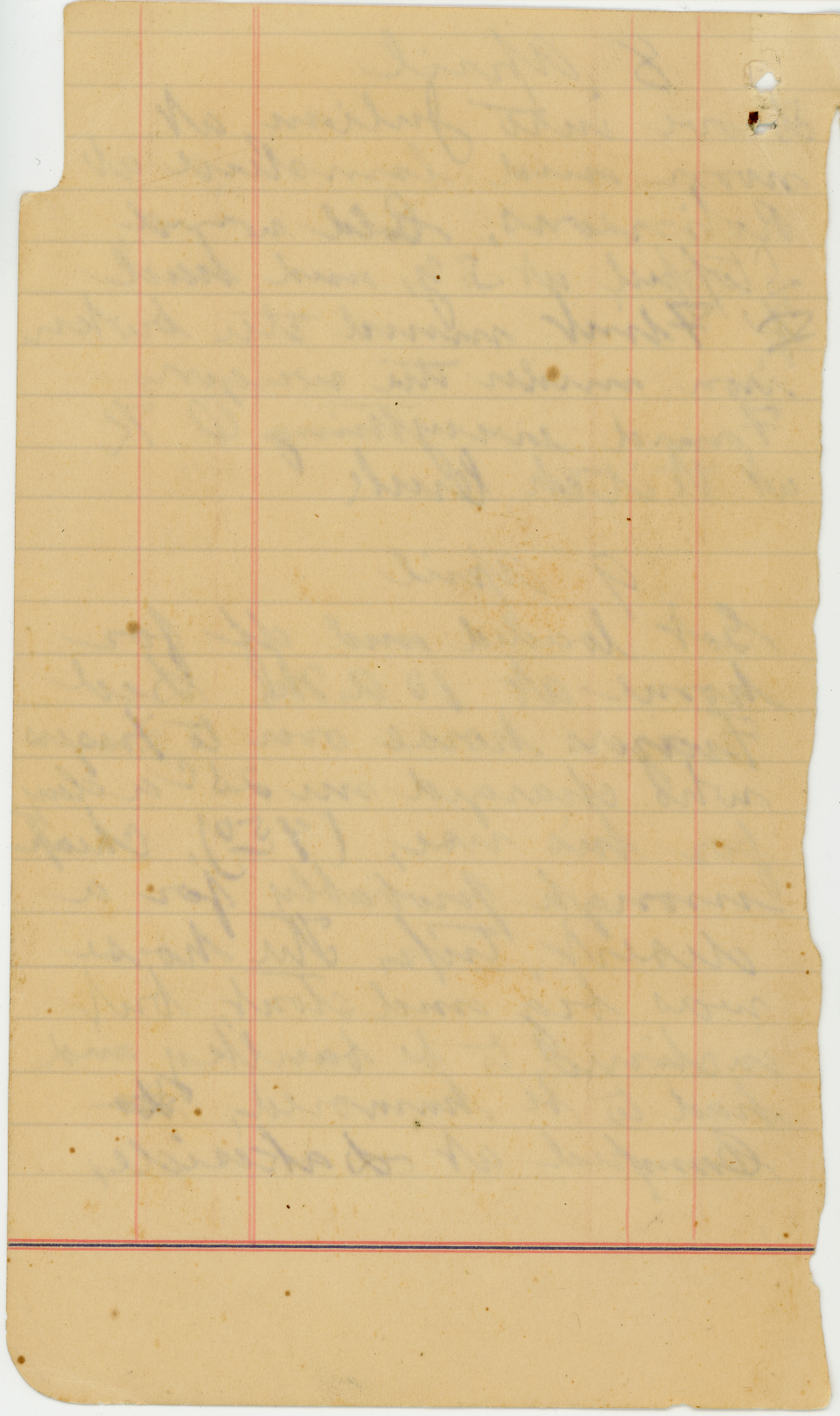
Skinned birds and mammals
in the morning. Started out
at 10-30. Splinkled a little
last night. Less wind today
but cool. Fred Grund was
out, so I left blanks for
him. Camped just below
Redmons, in a tolerably
sheltered place.
Almost no butterflies in the
wash coming up out of the
San Felipe Canon

8 April

Drove into Julian at noon and lunched at Robinsons. Cold wind. Stopped at S. Y. and hauled ~~the~~ Flint mined the broken iron under the wagons. Found everything O. K. at Witch Creek.

9 April

Got loaded and off for home at 10 a.m. Led Fragers horse over to Fragers who charged me 25¢ a day for his use, (450), cheap enough probably for a desert trip. The horse was big and stout, but inclined to be balky and had to be humored. ~~to~~ Camped at Lakeside.



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